

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO  
STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CEMETERY AT  
THE VIETNAM VETERANS NATIONAL MEMORIAL IN ANGEL FIRE.

WHEREAS, Victor Westphall, along with his wife Jeanne  
and younger son Douglas, began building a memorial shortly  
after his son Victor David Westphall was killed in Vietnam in  
1968; and

WHEREAS, they employed the services of Ted Luna to  
design a structure with gentle curves, more a sculpture than a  
conventional building; and

WHEREAS, the memorial is an enduring symbol not only of  
the tragedy of David's death but of the tragedy and futility  
of war; and

WHEREAS, since its opening in 1971, the memorial has  
gained in attention, and visitors now number about seventy  
thousand annually; and

WHEREAS, the memorial was the first memorial dedicated  
to all Vietnam veterans; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is proud to be the home of this

distinguished and distinctive symbol;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the United States department of veterans affairs be requested to study the feasibility of establishing a national cemetery at the Vietnam veterans national memorial in Angel Fire; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the secretary of the United States department of veterans affairs and the New Mexico congressional delegation.